















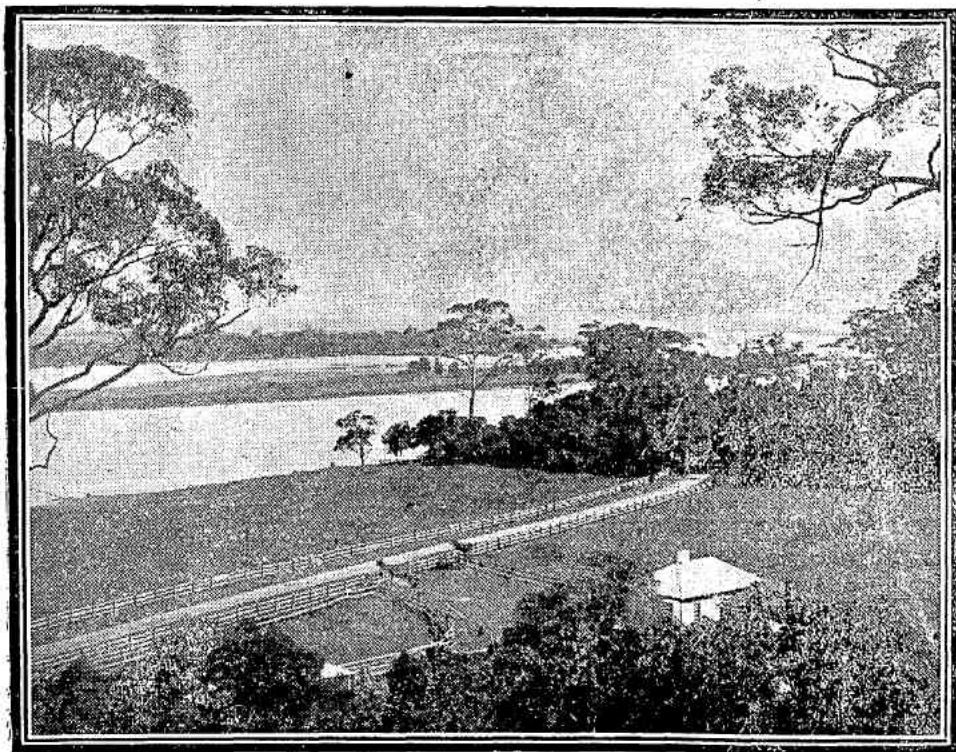




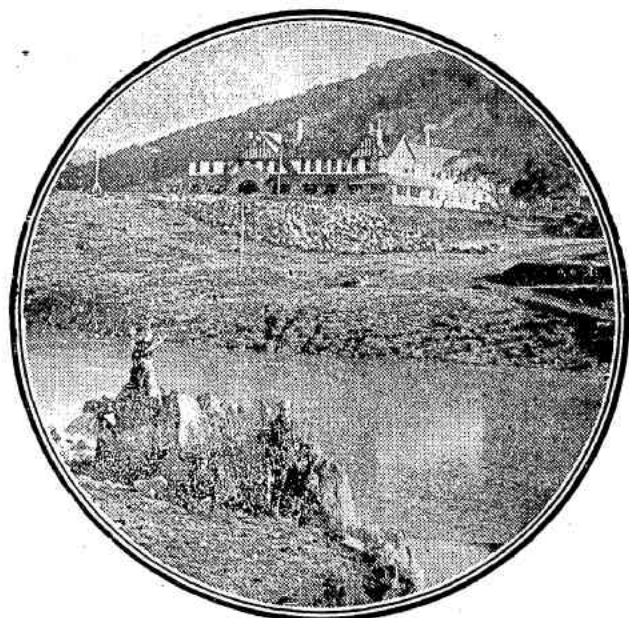


# RAILWAYS AND THE TOURIST.

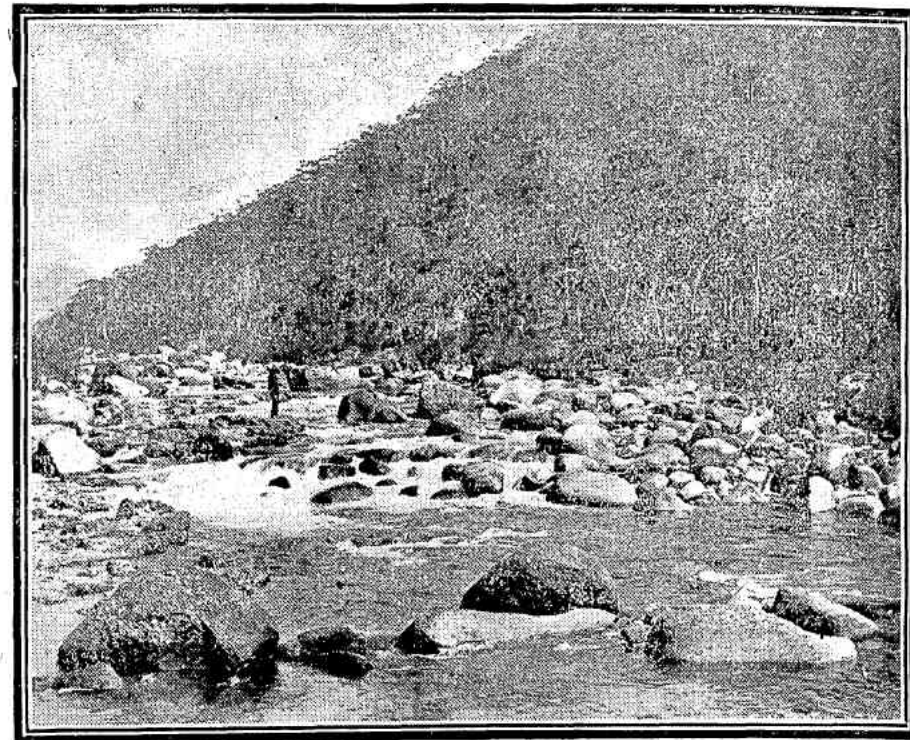
THE ADVANTAGES OF QUICK COMMUNICATION — THE UNIQUE POSITION OF NEW SOUTH WALES.



THE PICTURESQUE VALLEY OF THE SHOALHAVEN, N.S.W.



THE HOTEL KOSCIUSKO, 6000 FEET.



TROUTING ON THE SNOWY, KOSCIUSKO DISTRICT, N.S.W.

## THE RAILWAYS AND TOURIST TRAFFIC.

A COMPREHENSIVE and rapid transport system is essential for any great tourist country. In this respect New South Wales occupies a happy and altogether unique position. The value of its railway and tramway systems as an adjunct to its array of tourist attractions is incalculable. The vast majority of its almost numberless tourist, holiday, and health resorts lie along the great arteries of its railway system, or are reached by electric tram, and where this is not so, they are linked to them by speedy motors, or comfortable horse vehicles over good roads, leading through pleasing scenery. In no other country may such a wealth and variety of scenic resorts be reached so easily, so cheaply, or more comfortably and speedily. It is just this practical feature which gives New South Wales such an immense advantage as a tourist country. The railways especially have been a great contributor to the work of developing the tourist traffic in the State, yet in no case has a railway been constructed to this particular end. Other considerations have been responsible for the evolution of the State's railway system. Yet so prodigal is Nature, so lavishly have her charms been showered on this State, that wherever a railway track has been flung, it could not avoid touching or passing by some beauty spot.

### THE GREAT WESTERN LINE.

The Great Western Railway strikes through the very heart of the famous Blue Mountain District, making readily accessible at a few cost-free hours of scenery whose names are at this day echoed round the world. The sixteen stations between Glenbrook and Mount Victoria are sixteen individual tourist centres—each with its own peculiar attractions—each with its own galaxy of satellites. Speedy motors linking with the railroad at

Mount Victoria, Blackheath, Mellow Bath, or Katoomba, bring the Jenolan Caves within a few hours of the Metropolis. All these famous places, both from the points of view of time and expense, are brought by railway communication within the reach of everybody.

### THE NORTHERN LINE.

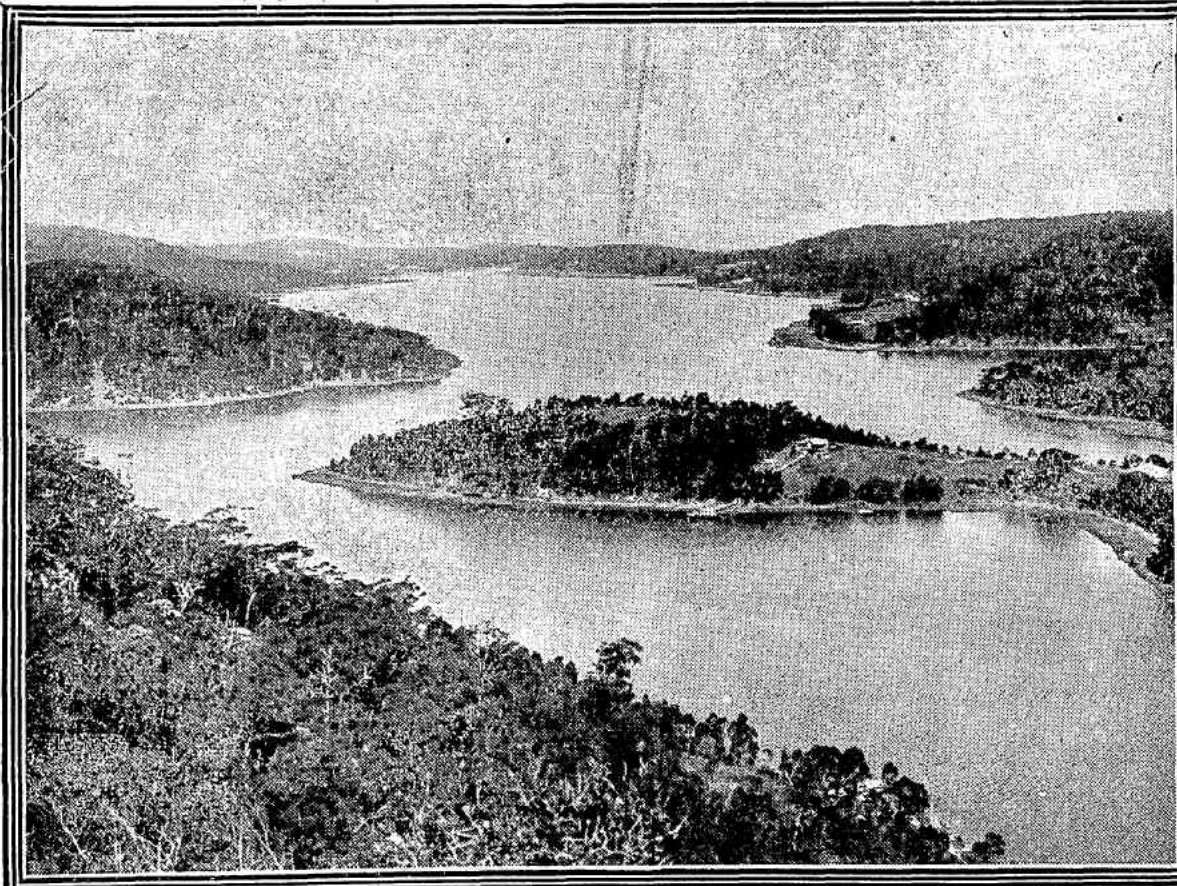
Along the Northern Railway Line are found the Newcastle District, with its contiguous lacustrine territory, the Hawkesbury River, and its associate lake, the Great National Park of Kuring-gai Chase. Their easy accessibility by rail has made them the favourite haunts of the "week-enders." Further afield by the same route is the New England District, known and appreciated as a fine sanatorium, and one of the most popular haunts of the trout fishermen.

### THE SOUTH COAST ROUTE.

The South Coast Line leads through the Illawarra, the "Garden of the State," and opens up a district teeming with beautiful holiday places. The visitor to New South Wales could look for no better sight-seeing tour in the State than that by this route, which takes him through some of the most picturesque, interesting, and diversified scenery. It includes the people's magnificent heritage of the National Park, the pristine beauties of the Port Jackson River, the incomparable panoramic outlook from the Bull Pass, the extraordinary natural freak in the Blow Hole at Kiama, and sweeps through delightful pastoral scenes of the Shoalhaven Valley to Nowra, passing almost the whole way close by the margin of the sea.

### THE MAIN SOUTHERN LINE.

The Main Southern Line traverses the southern highlands, whose elevation and cool, equable climate, and pure, bracing atmosphere have won well-merited fame as a sanatorium. The popular and fashionable health resorts at Thirlemere, Mittagong, Bowral, Moss Vale, Bundanoon, and Exeter are located in this region, one rich in scenic resorts, convenient to the railway. The convergence of the line at Moss Vale towards the South Coast railway makes a quick round tour possible. This round run from Sydney to Moss



A FINE HAWKESBURY RIVER PANORAMA, N.S.W.

## THE GOVERNMENT TOURIST BUREAU.

A well-equipped Tourist Bureau is an asset to a country. The Government Tourist Bureau has, since its formation in 1906, proved to be a real live institution, and has done splendid work both at home and abroad. It is still growing in usefulness and popularity. Its influence has been effective in improving the conditions of hotels and accommodation houses, in opening new districts, in the improvement of roads, and in the establishment of motor-car connections with the railroads. The residents of the State have been encouraged to travel and to see more of the beauties of their own land. Abroad the Bureau has done most useful work in attracting the tourist and pleasure-seeker to the State, and



THE BLUE LAKE AND SUMMER SNOWDRIFTS, KOSCIUSKO.

throughout the adjoining States extended and attractive information is disseminated to induce a stream of traffic to the famous beauty spots of the State. One instance of the results achieved in this direction will suffice. In 1906, two years after the Bureau's formation the number of inspections made at the Jenolan Caves was 11,702; this grew to 14,726 in 1909, and last year it swelled to 17,337. Any visitor or local resident may walk into the office of the Bureau in Challin House, and in a few moments receive a carefully-prepared itinerary giving full particulars of his projected tour to any part of the State, with times, fares, rates, hotels, and all essential details. The Bureau welcomes inquiries.

Vale, thence by road to Nowra (56 miles), and along the South Coast Line to Sydney, or vice versa, has become popular with week-enders, and with Melbourne visitors, who either may break their journey at Moss Vale or return home via the South Coast.

### KOSCIUSKO.

Branching from the main southern line at Goulburn a branch line leads to Cooma, the rail head of the Kosciuszko District. The Hotel Kosciuszko, near the summit of Australia's greatest mountain, is connected with Cooma by a service of motors. Kosciuszko is remote from Sydney, but when its unique attractions are known, it will draw an ever-increasing stream of tourists. The tourist traffic over the line is gradually increasing. Professor David once said: "If the people of Australia generally realised what magnificent scenery there is on the Australian Alps, and what a delightful change is afforded in that part of Australia, there would be less tendency, as the summer heat becomes trying, to migrate to New Zealand or elsewhere." And that exactly expresses the case. The reason why people have not exhibited a greater tendency to visit Kosciuszko during the summer is that they do not realise its attractions. It is not too much to say that the wonderful summer climate alone makes a trip to Kosciuszko worth while. The days are sunny and of genial warmth, and the breezes from the snow drifts have an exhilarating "alpine" quality. Visitors are driven daily, free of charge, to the great snow drifts, which linger on the upland valleys throughout the latest summer. The scenery at the summit is sublime. It has no parallel in Australia, and is among the finest highland scenery in the world. The wide sweeping panoramas of the hilly ranges, great yawning chasms, and naked granite peaks compose a scene of wild and impressive grandeur. The trout streams of the Kosciuszko range, born in the melting snows, know no superior. They are easily fished, are teeming with fine specimens, and anglers of wide experience say they are as good as the most famous Scottish streams. The hotel itself is an ideal headquarters, well appointed, and offering every luxury. Tennis courts, and billiard-room are available, and golf links are in course of preparation.

### THE TRAMWAY SYSTEM.

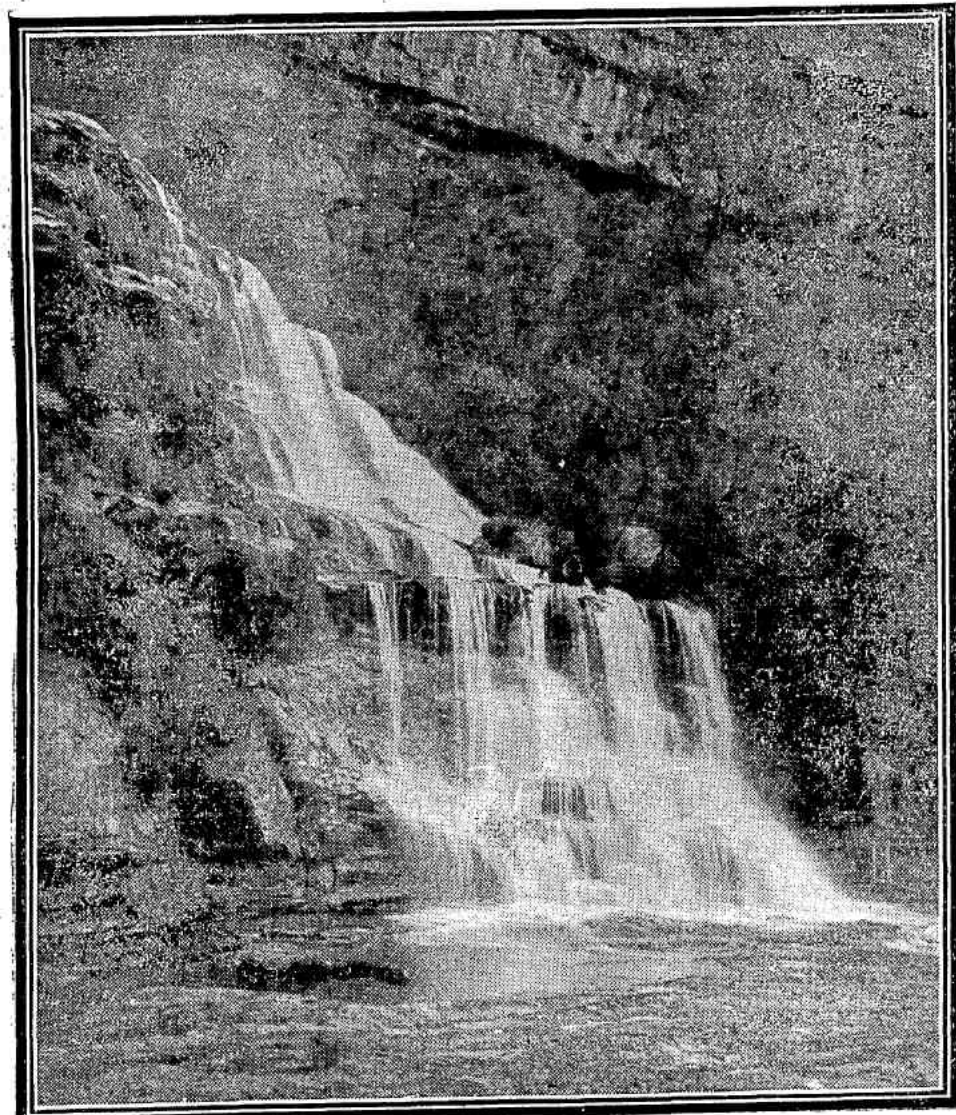
A half-hour's tram ride from Sydney, at the cost of a few pence, brings the tourist

to the ocean beaches at Manly, Coogee, Bondi, and elsewhere, or to some of the numberless pleasuring grounds round the city's perfect harbour. The stranger within its gates, anxious to comprehend something of the extent and beauty of Port Jackson, could not be better advised than to take a tram ride through some of the city's maritime suburbs. From many points on the commanding hills there unfold magnificent panoramas of landscape and scenery. He will see the beautiful homes of Sydney's fortunate residents, and be enchanted by the prospect of wooded slopes, broken by intruding harbour inlets, fringed with dazzling beaches of golden sand. Sydney Harbour is a world of delightful holiday grounds, most of which are reached by the city's electric tramway system, which is one of the most comprehensive, safest, and cheapest in the world.

### A GREAT TOURIST STATE.

New South Wales is rapidly gaining a high rank among the world's great tourist countries. Every year the influx of visitors from abroad increases. The last Kosciuszko Snow Carnival attracted two great ski-runners from England—enthusiastic enthusiasts on the Norwegian and Swiss fields. The Jenolan Caves is visited in ever-increasing numbers by tourists from all the corners of the globe, who have marked this spot as their own. The report of the Government Tourist Bureau bears testimony to the marked increase noticeable in the numbers of visitors from the other States of the Commonwealth and New Zealand. But what is perhaps more to the point, the awakening of local residents to a deeper appreciation of the marvellous extent and diversity of the scenic places of their own State is unmistakable. "See your own country first" is an ideal our people are bringing closer to their thoughts and actions. And why not? Their own, few countries have such a range of beauty places for the holiday maker, the sightseer, or health seeker. World-wide travellers have spoken in unmeasured terms of Nature's prodigal endowment of this State, with such a galaxy of glorious scenes. To these must be added the advantage of speed, comfort, and cheap travel.

The fullest information of the holiday railway routes over New South Wales is readily given by the Government Tourist Bureau, as well as particulars as to accommodation and cost.



THE BRIDAL VEIL, KATOOMBA, BLUE MOUNTAINS, N.S.W.



MAIN FALLS, WENTWORTH FALLS, BLUE MOUNTAINS, N.S.W.



# Mountaineering and Surfing

**T**HE Blue Mountains of New South Wales are not only a beautiful and healthy resort, but also a place where the State's future is being built. The mountains are not only a beautiful and healthy resort, but also a place where the State's future is being built. The mountains are not only a beautiful and healthy resort, but also a place where the State's future is being built.

There is a world of romance hidden away in the Blue Mountains. They have been the scene of many a great deed, and the mountains are not only a beautiful and healthy resort, but also a place where the State's future is being built.

But there is a pleasant side to the romantic stories which the mountains have to tell. There are the fairy tales and wonderland of the beautiful valleys, the happy moments of many young lives have been spent there.

**HEALTH-GIVING AIR.** There is another side to the romance, if there can be any romance in the passage from sickness to health. Many an invalid has found in the mountains the greatest of all health-giving air.

Perhaps the most interesting story of all could be told by the scientist if he could be prevailed upon to leave his laboratory and relate in a plain, straightforward way the history of the Blue Mountains. The scientist would tell you that the mountains are not only a beautiful and healthy resort, but also a place where the State's future is being built.

**THE WATERFALL COUNTRY.** Glenbrook is the first of the mountain stations, and from there the waterfalls of the Blue Mountains begin to flow.

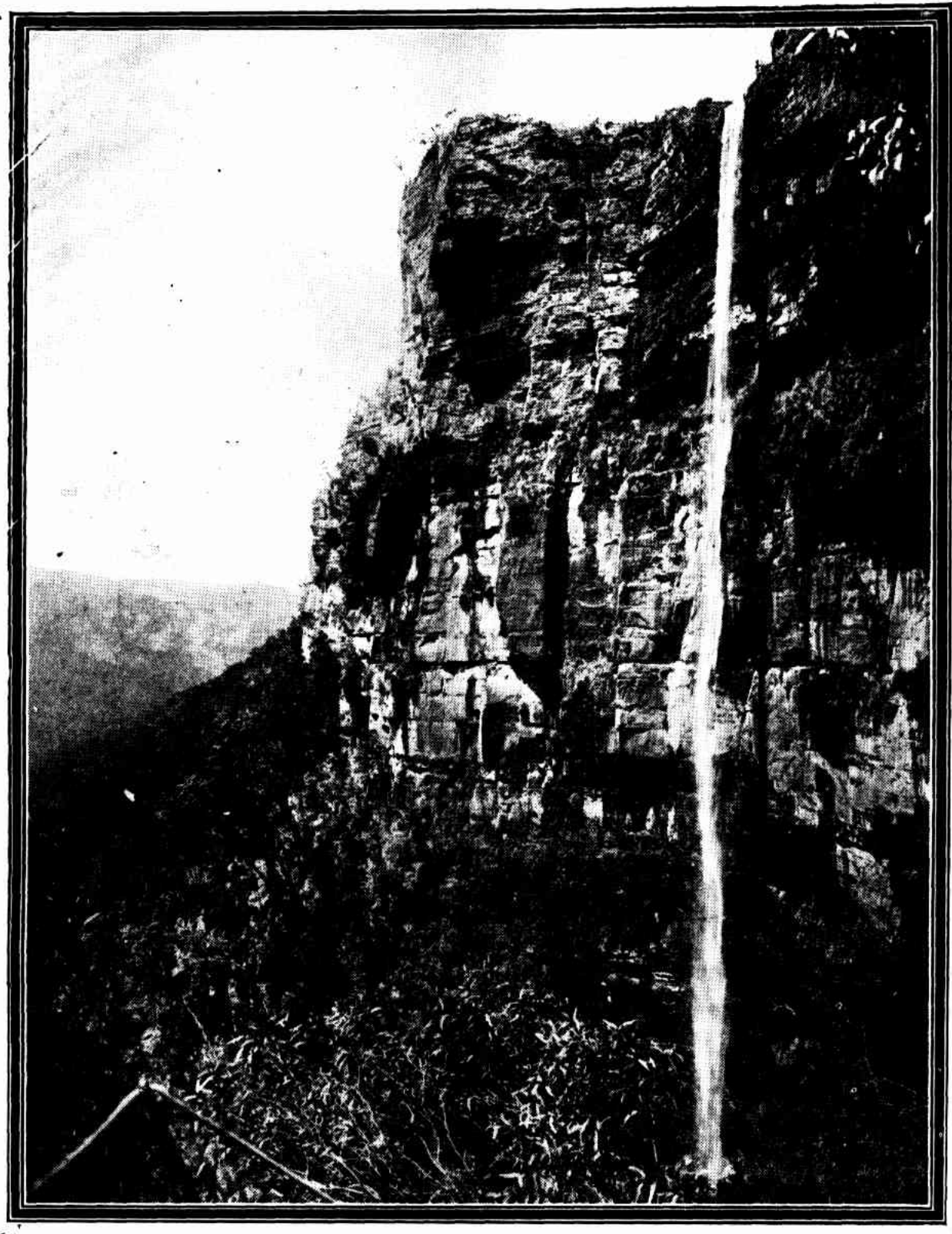
Start out from Katoomba in the freshness of an autumn morning, and drive along the old mountain highway towards Meadow. The drive through avenues of gum trees is delightful, and ever and anon the glimpse of a blue peak rising above the panorama of hills and valleys reminds you of the derivation of the name of the "Blue Mountains."

Katoomba is a district rich in waterfalls, rustic walks, and vantage points commanding views of the gorges and valleys. Close to the town are the waterfalls of the Blue Mountains, and the scenery for which the mountains are famous.

**THE GRAND CANYON.** New paths are gradually being opened on the Blue Mountains, and the long hidden treasures of the secluded glens are delivered up to the delighted gaze of touring thousands.

It would be impossible to adequately describe in limited space all the Blue Mountains resorts. A classification of them, however, should be of great assistance to tourists and holiday-makers. The following headings will be found to be of great assistance to tourists and holiday-makers.

**THE GRAND CANYON.** New paths are gradually being opened on the Blue Mountains, and the long hidden treasures of the secluded glens are delivered up to the delighted gaze of touring thousands.



GOVETT'S LEAP, AT BLACKHEATH.

## MOUNTAIN HEIGHTS & DEPTHS.

The following are the official measurements of the heights of cliffs and depths of waterfalls on the Blue Mountains. The measurements are given in feet and inches.

**GOVETT'S LEAP.** Actual fall of water over cliff, 100ft. From Lookout to bottom of second fall, 100ft. Total from Lookout to bottom of second fall, 100ft.

**RAILWAY CONCESSIONS.** Never was the call of the bush illustrated better than in the growth of the tourist traffic to the Blue Mountains.

The development that has taken place of late years presages greater things, and those responsible for the handling of the railways are recognizing that cheap fares and rapid means of transit will facilitate the settlement of the various mountain towns.

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## FAMOUS ILLAWARRA. SURF-BATHING JOYS.

FROM SEA TO MOUNTAIN.

Easy of access, rich in landscape pictures, and with a coastline that to-day ripples with beauty, and to-morrow is lashed into fury by the swift change of ocean's mood, the Illawarra district is a happy hunting ground of the tourist. New South Wales has been so beautifully endowed with the marvels of Nature's handwork that people who are tired here develop the habit of looking with unseeing eyes upon scenes which, because they are familiar, do not impress them as being wondrously fine.

A Scotch delegate to the Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire, which met in Sydney last year, delighted in memories of a visit to the Illawarra district. And perhaps nothing delighted him more than a moonlight scene near Clifton. Here the railway track runs along the very brow of the sea cliffs, and the swift and unexpected change from the blackness of the railway tunnel to the fairy-like beauty of the sleeping ocean bathed in the light of the moon formed a wonderfully impressive transformation.

Below, to the front, left, and right lies the sea, a scene of most delicate azure, fading on the horizon into the palest turquoise. The sands are golden and curved into a gentle bay. A line of white foam following the delicate outline of the shore breaks utterly unheard away and away, and away to the right waves this most undulating triple line of blue and white and gold.

The most important phase of surf-bathing is the influence which it is exercising on the national life. The people in the interior, by the nature of the surroundings and employment, become strong specimens of human clay. In the metropolis the young people have been too prone in the past to seek amusement in the unhealthy pastime of the "dive."

Half a dozen miles beyond Kiama lies the town of Gungahlin, one of the finest spots in the long stretch of undulating country between the Kiama and Berry—probably the most important dairy country in the Illawarra district. The town takes its name from the late David Berry, who established himself on the Condon great butter industry at the same time.

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## PORT STEPHENS. NATURE RULES SUPREME.

A NATIONAL PASTIME.

Although the exigencies of defence threaten to transform peaceful Port Stephens into a naval base, and although the finding of the Decentralisation Commission threatens to turn the Ciderella harbour into a thriving deep-sea port, the future, immediate or remote, of Port Stephens claims no civic or naval honours. The cosmos of industrialism has not yet invaded the sanctuary. The ships of the future, immediate or remote, of Port Stephens claims no civic or naval honours.

Forming in at night from the sea side, is seen the red and white revolving light on Stephens Point, while just to the northward are the open portals of the sea. The light seems almost an intrusion to break in upon the quiet of the inlet. Like a sea of glass, the quiet waters of the bay reflect the starlit heavens. The port is wrapped in blissful silence.

Day comes to reveal the vast expanse of the inlet, and to show up the tiny white cottages nestled at long intervals along the shore-line. The rays glow from the sunrise sheds a pink mantle over the seascapes. It tints the shimmering waters of Salamander Bay. It lightens the dull green of the eucalyptus forest, and works westward till the mist on the mountain spurs scatters before the golden spears of morning. Then the sparsely populated port makes a fine pretence of being busy.

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## WITH THE GUN. PLENTY OF SPORT.

A NATIONAL PASTIME.

Apart from the numerous rifle ranges, with their frequent prize competitions, the State offers a wide scope for the sportsman's straight barrel in the field. During the open season quails are to be found all over the State, in the scrub lands, on the plains, and amongst the fallow fields of the verdant coast.

Many of the most-devouring birds are protected, but there are plenty of useful food birds and other creatures to lure the man with a gun from the city to the country. Much good shooting is engaged in by hunters of Winchester when their Rabbits are plentiful, and as fresh of a native cat is a worthy ornament in a sportsman's den.

Rabbits are so common in many places that sportsmen disdain to aim at them with a shot gun, but give them a start before sending a single leaden bullet into their ranks. Much good shooting is engaged in by hunters of Winchester when their Rabbits are plentiful, and as fresh of a native cat is a worthy ornament in a sportsman's den.

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COLOMBO.

## A BANQUET OF BEAUTY.

If one were asked to sum up in a single word one's first and most enduring impressions of Ceylon in general, and Colombo in particular, perhaps the most satisfactory would be "light."

As the vessel carrying the tourist steams slowly between massive breakwaters into Co-

lombo and Dutch and English invaders. The walls of the ancient Fort of Colombo have now largely disappeared, but a mangled form of Portuguese is still largely spoken in some parts of the island, while the Portuguese occupation has left its traces deeply in the customs and habits of the people. The Dutch, too, have had no small influence on the country, while, apart from the "burgher" section of the population, the "Pettah," or native town, is a rainbow swarm of Sinhalese, Tamils, Moors, and Malays. From the boat of the coast one finds

## THE DELHI DURBAR.

The Delhi Durbar Committee, under the presidency of Sir John Hewitt, is still occupied with the enormous mass of detail which has to be arranged, laying out grounds for camps, arranging water supply, etc. The Durbar will be carried out on a scale of great magnificence. The King and Queen and their suites will, it is expected, sail from Portsmouth in November in a chartered liner, and proceed to Bombay, where they will land and travel direct to Delhi by royal train. On the conclusion of the Durbar—which will be held on or about December 12—the King will go to Nipal for a few days' shooting. The Queen probably remaining at Delhi or paying visits in the neighbourhood, and afterwards joining the King in

## THE CITY OF THE LION.

## SINGAPORE THE MODERN.

From Java to Singapore is a mere step, and a regular service of steamers from Tandjong Priok, the port of Batavia, carries the tourist in a few days to the most important city between Calcutta and Hongkong. The City of the Lion—the literal translation of the name—is said to have been founded in about 1100 by a certain Sang Nila Utama, a Hindu descendant of Alexander the Great, who named it after a remarkable animal which he saw there. The city flourished under his descendants to such an extent as to attract jealous glances from the Hindu kingdom of Java, and in 1525 the Rajah of Majapahit sent over a formidable fleet and army, entered the city by night through the treachery of one of the leading inmates, and left it a heap of ruins.

The survivors founded the city of Melaka, which in a sixteenth century MS. attributed to the great Magellans, is described as "the richest trading port, and possesses the most valuable merchandise and numerous shipping and extensive traffic that is known in the world."

However, this prosperity was cut short in 1511 by Albuquerque and the Portuguese, who were in turn driven out by the Dutch in 1641. Malacca was made the headquarters of the Dutch enterprises in the Malay Peninsula, but in 1795 the place was taken by the British, and the establishment of Penang and later of Singapore—re-risen from its ashes—robbed Malacca of all importance. The new founding of Singapore, under the British flag, and the establishment of Penang and later of Singapore—re-risen from its ashes—robbed Malacca of all importance. The new founding of Singapore, under the British flag, and the establishment of Penang and later of Singapore—re-risen from its ashes—robbed Malacca of all importance.

Shortly after leaving Tandjong Priok one comes in sight of the small island of Krakatau or Krakatoa, famous for the most destructive eruption ever known. As one approaches Singapore itself, winding deviously through quantities of little islands, where the roofs of the houses, and the tops of the trees, and the masts of the ships, are visible from a distance of many miles.

It has been decided, owing to the large number of Lords and Commissioners who are anxious to attend the Durbar, to charter a vessel of 6000 tons for the trip. In the event of many members of the two Houses desiring to visit Japan and make an extended cruise of three months, a still larger vessel will be chartered. The committee has received assurances from the India Office that, if possible, a special camp will be provided for

## JAVA THE WONDERLAND.

## HER PEOPLES AND HISTORY.

There is something almost magically attractive, something suggestive of perilous seas and fairy lands far off, in the very name of this strange island, so long the least known land, with the exception of Japan, of all the glorious East; still unexplored even when a Venetian adventurer was ruling a province of Cathay for the great Kublai, and the caravans of the Navigator were rounding the Cape of Good Hope, and yet so old in its civilization that Ptolemy, the Greek geographer, speaks of it in the earliest years of the Christian era, and the language of its mariners in the legends of the speech of Tonga beyond the records of men.

In her territory Java is as much less than many other islands of the archipelago—Borneo, Sumatra, Celebes—as she is superior to them all in wealth, beauty, interest, and her teeming population of nearly 30,000,000. A land of fertile plains and dramatic valleys, of flowing gorges and peaks of verdant majesty; a land where war and pestilence and cataclysm have wrought destruction time and time again, yet where the lotus-spell of the East has soothed away the memory of the struggle, and Nature has veiled the grim ravages of the volcano with a mantle of green, till death seems but the shadow of birth; a land where history and tradition, legend and myth, are woven inextricably together since the days when earth was indeed a fairy place; a land, finally, where the most modern conditions exist side by side with the beliefs and practices of the childhood of the world—such is the land of Java to-day.

A glance at the map shows that Java lies a mere stone's throw from the north of Australia, and a little south of the equator. The islands of the East Indian Archipelago are strung out across the Pacific as though a giant had started to lay stepping-stones from Singapore to New Guinea, and grows too tired to finish his work. When one further observes that volcanoes are lavishly distributed along the track, now mostly extinct, one has a clear hint as to the giant's identity. Active, quiescent, or dead, there are over a hundred volcanoes in Java alone, which is literally a land of fire, upheaven from the abyss; and their great sides, clothed with impenetrable forests or smiling cultivation, or cleft with gloomy ravines, haunted by the tiger or the rhinoceros, and aroused from their perennial stillness only by the crying of the wind or the melancholy murmur of some far-off waterfall, exercise an indefinable fascination over the traveller. Nothing, perhaps, in Java, makes so vivid and so enduring an impression as the first glimpse of some lofty hillside terraced from summit to base with an intricate system of flooded rice fields, which the sun turns to a pyramid of gold and the moon to a temple of silver. Among the hills, too, one finds welcome haven from the oppressive quality of the heat that lies heavily on the coastal towns, such as Batavia, Sourabaya, or Samarang. At Tassar or Sindangdja one moves in another world, where the nights are crisp and cold, and one's days are spent in reckless gallop on sturdy little Tiger ponies along crumbling brittle-tracks or through quaint brown-thatched villages over hanging dizzy precipices. Sometimes, however, gallops are impossible, as one picks one's way tenderly down paths slippery as glass and steep as a flight of stairs, with

invisible depths at one's feet, and the great trees stretching their dripping ghostly arms out of the white mists that shroud everything from sight at a few paces' distance. The road from Sydney to Sourabaya is a series of progressions of green-shifting transformation scenes. At Port Moreby one is back in the morning of the world, in a land where, disregarding the handful of stores, hotels, and bungalows that play at being a civilized township, the original owners of the soil retain almost all their primitive simplicity of laws and costume. Thursday is the farthest outpost of Australia; Debo, in the Arce Islands, a mining camp, where men dive for pearls instead of digging for gold. At Macassar, in Celebes, one enters farmland, carrying away a confused and exquisite impression of many-colored draperies, of quaint old houses where the green roof is pierced with shafts of golden sunlight, of great clay-shouldered buffaloes, and pretty dark-eyed girls, who wave a laughing greeting as one drives by, and, last but not least, one's first introduction to the famous dish, rijst-tavel. And so one arrives at Java itself, with its teeming cities, its hurried, hearted, courteous little people, its Sultan, whose palaces are their prisons, its dancing girls and shadow plays, the land of the kris and the ramelan, whose melancholy music is perhaps most characteristic of all. The railway and the motor car, while facilitating travel, have left the spirit of Java unchanged.

In Java the Australian visitor wanders amid scenes of unsurpassed beauty, fertility, and luxuriance; he watches with admiration

## THE SUNNY PACIFIC.

## GREEN ISLES AND PURPLE SEAS.

For the man or woman who is tired out with the whirl and roar of the civilization machine, no better panacea can be chosen than a voyage among the loveliest of the Pacific. Set in smooth sides of wonderful pellucid colouring, like jewels mounted on an enamel background, they present an ever-varying picture of coral reefs, where at low water one can watch the brilliantly-hued fish gliding between living flowers, waving depths of mysterious green forest, and the little brown huts of the native villages showing through the tangle like sleeping fauns.

It is with a thrill of pleasure that one watches in the early morning light, when the sky is like mother of pearl, the pellucid ghosts of one of these islands seeming to hover above the horizon like a land of enchantment. Little by little assuming definite shape and solidity, until half a dozen canoes shoot gracefully alongside and a score

wood, and whose atmosphere is dark with superstition, infamy, and death. Lord Howe and Norfolk Islands, on the other hand, present a picture differing in all particulars, though not less beautiful. The principal attraction of the former is the unrivalled fishing, as the waters teem with fish of every conceivable variety. Norfolk Island, "the Madrina of the Pacific," is chiefly notorious as a health resort, the purity of the sea air, combined with the balsamic properties of the innumerable pine trees, making a perfect blend of inestimable value to those seeking complete change and rest. The inhabitants of the island, too, the hotel descendants of the famous Bounty mutineers, delight the visitors with their old-fashioned manners and simple hospitality.

As to Papua, it is a country of extraordinary interest from the fact that scarcely any country in the world has so long and tenaciously guarded the secrets in its keeping. Thanks to the indomitable efforts of successive parties of explorers, we are now getting to learn more of the interior, its wealth, its lofty ranges and rapid, jungle-bordered rivers, its strange, often savage peoples, and novel fauna and flora, but up to within a few years ago our knowledge was practically confined to thin and infrequent patches of scrubland or settlements like Samarai or Port Moresby. Few things are



STREET SCENE IN COLOMBO.

Jomho Harbour, with a lofty disregard of the sea, among some of the most magnificent mountain scenery in the world, and rich in fertile plantations. Here, too, are the beautiful Peradeniya Gardens, and the famous Temple, where is enshrined the sacred tooth of Buddha, a centre of adoration for over 500 millions of the world's population. As one moves along a forest path, where monkeys scamper through a tangle of flowers and creepers, and the head of a tame and Government-owned elephant may at any moment loom round a corner, one seems to be riding in a land of enchantment.

From Colombo, too, one may visit the buried cities, dating from 437 B.C., while the sacred tree, still flourishing, planted by a royal princess something like 2500 years ago, at the inauguration of Buddhism in Ceylon, is perhaps the oldest historical tree in the world.

the royal train on the return trip from Nipal to Calcutta. After the visit to Calcutta the King and the Queen will re-embark for England, arriving some time in January. The details of the actual ceremonies where is enshrined the sacred tooth of Buddha are still under discussion, but it does not appear to be likely that there will be a Coronation in the ordinary sense of the word, although it seems reasonable to believe that the King and the Queen will assume or wear their crowns.

It has been decided, owing to the large number of Lords and Commissioners who are anxious to attend the Durbar, to charter a vessel of 6000 tons for the trip. In the event of many members of the two Houses desiring to visit Japan and make an extended cruise of three months, a still larger vessel will be chartered. The committee has received assurances from the India Office that, if possible, a special camp will be provided for



SOUTH SEA CANOES.

the genius of a western nation triumphantly turns to its own uses the passiveness of the Orient; the dust of dead empires lies beneath his feet, and it is with strange emotions and readjusted opinions on many subjects that he returns at last to a land new-born of the unknown, free, smiling in her strength, her hands already outstretched to grasp what ever destiny may be hers.

Such is the outer presentation of the Solomons, the New Hebrides, or the other islands, including or adjacent to Papua. But there is another side; and a grim and additional interest is given to the scene when one remembers that its apparently peaceful beauty conceals in many cases a state of society whose very foundations are cemented by

of greater interest than a visit to these outposts of our Commonwealth. The natives themselves, with their lakatols, or rafts of canoes, their queer villages, which look like a collection of sticks which the first wind would blow down, their pottery, their superstitions, form a remarkable contrast to the neat plantations, the trim, comfortable houses, and all the insignia of civilization.

## P. &amp; O. SUMMER SAILINGS.

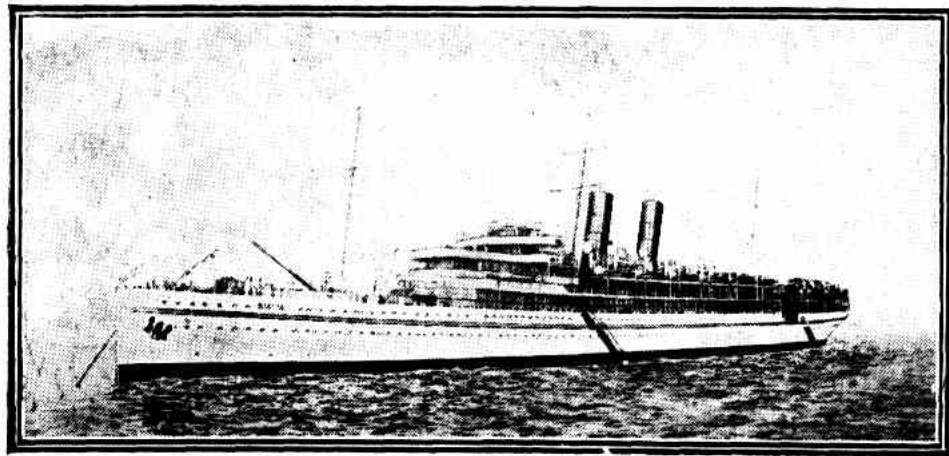
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Morea	11,000 "	Moldavia	10,000 "	India	8,000 "

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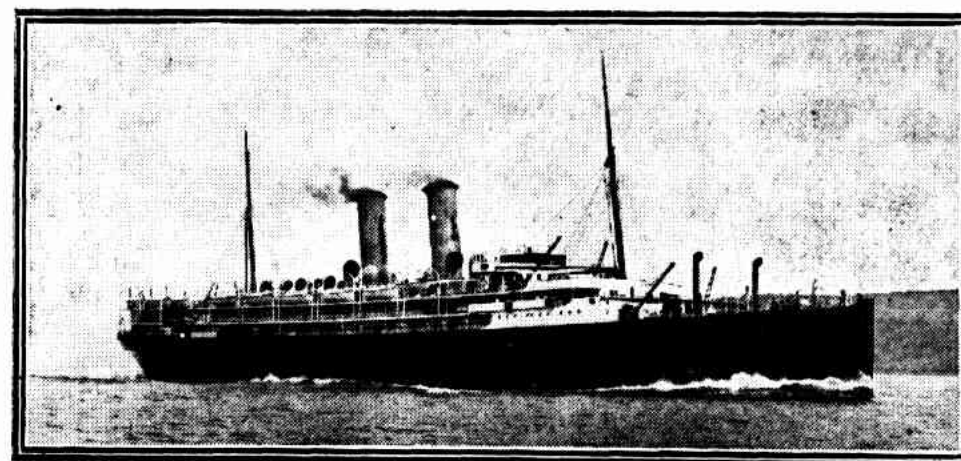
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